

CLAIMS:

1. A home and/or doctor's office test kit for detection of a food allergy in an individual, the kit comprising:

(a) a vessel for mixing a stool specimen with a diluting liquid to produce a diluted stool specimen;

(b) a housing holding within a substrate, the substrate comprising at least one zone containing food antigens, the housing further comprising reagents for producing a visually detected reaction when an antibody-food antigen complex is formed, the housing further comprising at least one conveying means for receiving diluting stool specimen and transferring it to the food-antigen containing zone of the substrate;

(c) the housing further comprises an indicator for showing the presence of the visually detected reaction.

2. A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the food antigens are immobilized on the substrate in the zone containing the food antigens.

3. A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate has a capillary structure and the conveying means are the capillary forces of the substrate.

4. A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate has a porous structure and the conveying means are the absorbent forces of the substrate.

5. A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate is selected from: nitrocellulose sheets, paper, gel-films, cellulose acetate, glass fibers, glass papers, and agarose gel.

6. A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the indicator is an opening in a housing showing above the zone of the substrate containing the food antigens.

7. A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the diluting liquid is selected from distilled water, formalin solution, sodium acetate solution, sodium acetate solution with a detergent.

8. A kit according to Claim 1, wherein the visually detected reaction is obtained by binding of an anti-human antibody, conjugated to a detectable label, to antibody-food antigen complex.

9. A kit according to Claim 8, wherein the anti-human antibody is conjugated to a gold particle.

10. A kit according to Claim 8, wherein the anti-human antibody is conjugated to an enzyme capable in the presence of a suitable substrate, to produce a visually detected reaction.

11. A kit according to Claim 1, for the detection of a single food allergy.

12. A kit according to Claim 1, for the detection of two or more food allergies, wherein each antigen for the detection of the food allergy, is immobilized on a separate zone on the substrate; and wherein each indicator is an opening in the housing above said separate zone.

13. A kit according to Claim 1, further comprising a scooping device.

14. A kit according to Claim 13, wherein the scooping device is an integral part of a cap for the vessel.

15. A kit according to Claim 1, further comprising a disposable container for collecting stools.

16. A method for detecting the presence of a food allergy in an individual, suspected of having such an allergy, the method comprising:

- (a) obtaining a stool specimen from the individual;
- (b) diluting the stool specimen with a diluting liquid to produce a diluted stool specimen;
- (c) introducing the stool specimen into the kit according to Claim 1; and
- (d) viewing the indicator, the presence of a visually detected reaction in the indicator, indicating the presence of food allergy in the individual.

17. A method according to Claim 16, utilizing the kit of Claim 1.

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